

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## TRIBUTE TO TOM RYDER

### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2002*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Tom Ryder, and all the great work he did as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives over the last 18 years.

Mr. Ryder was born in 1949, graduated Magna Cum Laude from Northern Illinois University, and received a Juris Doctor degree from Washington and Lee University. Then, in 1983, he was elected to the Illinois General Assembly as the Representative for the 97th District.

There he served with honor and distinction until his recent retirement on November 13, 2001. He was the Deputy Republican Leader of the House and Co-Chairman of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. In addition to his leadership responsibilities, he sponsored and cosponsored many important pieces of legislation, such as medical malpractice reform and the deterrence of welfare fraud and abuse.

But his good works were not limited to the House floor—he was also a civic and community leader. Mr. Ryder was an active member of the Peace United Church of Christ, Chairman of the Jerseyville All-Weather Track Committee, founder of the Jersey Community High School Theatre Friends, former chairman of the United Way, and former co-chairman of the Jersey County Cancer Crusade Bike-A-Thon. He is truly a kind and industrious person.

Mr. Speaker, we need more men like Tom Ryder. Not only has he admirably served both his country and his community for almost two decades in the Illinois General Assembly, but he also plans to continue his service after he retires, as Vice President of External Affairs with the Illinois Community College Board. For all of these things, he deserves the gratitude and well wishes of these chambers. May God bless him and grant him fortune in all his future endeavors.

ORZELL BILLINGSLEY, CIVIL RIGHTS HERO

### HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2002*

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great hero of the civil rights struggle in Alabama, Orzell Billingsley.

Mr. Billingsley was one of the lead lawyers for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955, the struggle which is known as the first act of the modern civil rights movement. This historic movement created the freedom in America which blacks now enjoy.

One of the first ten blacks admitted to the Alabama bar, he then began a series of legal representation during civil rights cases, and was instrumental in taking the movement into the courts.

When Alabama created its "Freedom Democrats," named the National Democratic Party of Alabama (NDPA), Mr. Billingsley was General Counsel for the Party, and was a delegate for the NDPA at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in 1968.

Deeply concerned with real democracy, Mr. Billingsley was instrumental in the creation of over 20 small towns incorporated in Alabama. That these black majority towns were incorporated during the difficult days of the civil rights era shows how important his contribution to freedom and democracy was.

One of his most important cases was that of Caliph Washington, who was in a scuffle in 1957 with a policeman when the policeman's gun accidentally fired. While the officer's wife collected insurance money following what was ruled an accidental death, Mr. Washington was nevertheless charged with capital murder by an all white jury.

Mr. Billingsley fought the conviction through four trials over the next 15 years, finally winning an acquittal for Mr. Washington and ending the era of all white juries in Jefferson County, Alabama.

Through all these years of heroic work, Mr. Billingsley often was unpaid for his services as an attorney, because his clients were impoverished. He simply went on with his life saving work, putting people and freedom before money.

Mr. Billingsley was nationally prominent, and was the recipient of calls from Presidents John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson during the civil rights crisis in Alabama.

Mr. Billingsley passed away on December 14, 2001. His work for freedom and justice will live on forever.

GIRL SCOUTS GOLD MEDAL  
RECIPIENT: LAURA MANZI

### HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2002*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize one of New York's outstanding young students: Laura Manzi. In February, the young women of her troop will honor her by bestowing upon her the Girl Scouts Gold Medal.

Since the beginning of this century, the Girls Scouts of America have provided thousands of youngsters each year the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.

These awards are presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service. The

Gold Awards represent the highest awards attainable by junior and high school Girl Scouts.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipient of this award, as her activities are indeed worthy of praise. Their leadership benefits our community and they serve as role models for their peers.

Also, we must not forget the unsung heroes, who continue to devote a large part of their lives to make all this possible. Therefore, I salute the families, scout leaders, and countless others who have given generously of their time and energy in support of scouting.

It is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Laura, and bring the attention of Congress to this successful young woman on her day of recognition.

HONORING ROBERT C. SHINN, JR.

### HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2002*

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Robert C. Shinn, Jr., who served as the 11th Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) longer than any other commissioner in the DEP's 31-year history.

Bob Shinn also served as an elected official at the local, county and state levels for 26 years, where much of his effort was devoted to open space, Pinelands and farmland preservation, water supply and solid waste management issues.

Among his legislative accomplishments was authorship of New Jersey's Water Supply Critical Area Law, which gives the state the necessary authority to effectively manage threatened surface and ground water resources. He guided the passage of several key laws, including our state's Mandatory Recycling Act and the revision of the A-901 solid waste hauler screening program, and also authored the law regulating the handling and disposal of medical waste in New Jersey.

On the local level, Bob served as Township Committeeman and Mayor of Hainesport from 1968 to 1977. He served as Burlington County Freeholder from 1977 to 1985, and as Freeholder Director for two years. He was responsible for the formation of the Burlington County Pinelands Conservation Easement Advisory committee, and was instrumental in securing the first conservation easement in the Pinelands. To that end, he was elected vice-chairman of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission from 1979 to 1985.

Mr. Shinn was instrumental in developing Burlington County's Solid Waste Management Plan and its Environmental Complex, which serves as the county's multi-functional resource recovery facility as well as an environmental research and demonstration facility.

Bob Shinn has been a shining star in the annals of New Jersey's history, locally, on the

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